

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 26, 1965

PM

Statement by Senator J. W. Fulbright
Upon Introduction of Bill to Amend
The Foreign Agents Registration Act

Mr. President:

On behalf of the senior Senator from Iowa and myself, I reintroduce a bill to amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938. This is the same bill that passed the Senate last session. I am pleased to report that Congressman Celler, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over this subject on that side, has introduced an identical bill.

The basic purpose of this bill is to update the Foreign Agents Registration Act to reflect the changes in the nature of the United States role in world affairs today. As our interests throughout the world have multiplied, the efforts of foreign interests to influence American foreign policy have become correspondingly greater and more subtle.

In order to determine the extent of the use of nondiplomatic means to influence American policy, in 1961 the Committee on Foreign Relations ordered a preliminary staff investigation to look into incidents which had come to its attention. The staff investigation uncovered evidence of extensive activities which were not subject to the public scrutiny they deserved and, at the Committee's request, the Senate agreed to a resolution authorizing a full investigation into the subject. The Committee's investigation began in 1962 and continued through most of 1963. On September 10 of that year, a bill was introduced to amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act substantially in accord with the provisions of the bill being introduced today. Full public hearings were held on the bill and it was reported to the Senate with amendments on February 21 of last year.

The Committee has studied at great length both the conditions which prompted the bill and the provisions of the bill itself. The bill was debated thoroughly in the Senate and objection was raised to only one aspect of it. I believe that this objection was settled satisfactorily by adoption of an amendment offered by the senior Senator from New York (Senator Javits), even though I did not believe that the amendment was necessary. The major provisions of the bill as it passed the Senate and as it is being reintroduced today are:

1. Revised definitions for the terms "foreign principal," "agent of a foreign principal," and "political activities" plus a new term "political consultant" -- all of which are aimed at better focusing the act on those individuals performing political or semi-political activities.

2. An injunctive remedy is authorized for the Attorney General where compliance with either the act itself or the regulations issued under the act is considered inadequate.

3. Stricter requirements for disclosing political activities and expenditures as part of regular reports to the Department of Justice.

4. Prohibition of campaign contributions for or in behalf of a foreign principal in connection with any primary or general election for public office.

7. Officers and employees of the U.S. Government are prohibited from acting as agents of foreign principals. Contract or part-time employees of the Federal Government may act as agents of foreign principals if the head of the employing agency certifies such employment is in the national interest and a copy of the certification is placed in the public file of the agent maintained by the Department of Justice.

I ask unanimous consent to have the text of the bill printed at this point in the Record.

ok
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"Coverment File kept for
"Foreign"